



**Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Yr  
Wyddgrug, 25 Mehefin 2015 (10.30am – 3pm)**

***Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Mold, 25 June  
2015 (10.30am – 3pm)***

<p><b>Ynys Môn / Anglesey</b> Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas</p> <p><b>Blaenau Gwent</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend</b> Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Caerffili/ Caerphilly</b> Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Caerdydd / Cardiff</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire</b> Mary Parry</p> <p><b>Ceredigion</b> Lyndon Lloyd</p> <p><b>Conwy</b> Phil Lord Nicholas Richter Roger Boon Female teacher (Phil to check name)</p>	<p><b>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire</b> Gavin Craigen Phil Lord Brian H. Jones</p> <p><b>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire</b> Phil lord Cllr Chris Bithell Cllr david Mackie Mr Ron Keating</p> <p><b>Gwynedd</b> Bethan James</p> <p><b>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil</b> Y Cyngh./ Vicky Thomas Ernie Galsworthy</p> <p><b>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</b></p> <p><b>Casnewydd / Newport</b> Huw Stephens Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</b></p>	<p><b>Powys</b> John Mitson Margaret Evitts</p> <p><b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Abertawe / Swansea</b> Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Torfaen /Torfaen</b> Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Wrecsam / Wrexham</b> Libby Jones</p> <p><b>Sylwedyddion / Observers</b></p> <p>Eldon Phillips (REMW)</p>
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## **Minutes**

### **1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome***

In Absence of Tania ap Sion, Vice Chair Gavin Craigen stood in as Chair for the meeting.

Gavin Craigen welcomed members to Flintshire and introduced Mr Ian Budd- Chief Education Officer of Flintshire County Council. Ian Budd delivered a welcome speech to WASACRE members, which he kindly agreed for Libby Jones to attach in full to the minutes.

Gavin thanked Ian Budd for his words of welcome and support for the association. Gavin also thanked the choir from Sir Richard Gwyn High School, Flint for their beautiful singing which greeted members on arrival to the meeting.

### **2. Adfyfyrto tawel / *Quiet reflection*. Gavin asked members to reflect on the meeting ahead, and also on the people, especially children, in other countries who are currently facing hardships.**

### **3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies***

Tania ap Sion, Edward Evans, Sue Cave, Tudor Thomas, Leslie Francis, Sharon Perry-Philips, Cllr Huw George, Helen Gibbon, Meinir Loader.

Gavin proposed WASACRE send a letter of thanks and best wishes to Tudor Thomas from WJEC who will be retiring from his post at the end of the summer, and therefore will no longer be attending WASACRE meeting. Members acknowledged Tudor's long standing relationship with the Association and his most valued support and friendship. Libby Jones will write and send the letter to Tudor before the end of term.

### **4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yn CNPT, 6 Mawrth 2015 / *Minutes of meeting held in NPT, 6 March 2015***

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### **5. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising***

Page 6, Item 6. Welsh Baccalaureate. Member expressed concern over the new Welsh Bacc qualification squeezing out the Religious Studies GCSE as an option subject. The Welsh Bacc now has a column in the option choices in schools in which RS would have



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naturally be situated. It was pointed out that some students take RS as a fourth option and now they won't have that opportunity in some schools. Vicky Thomas agreed that in some schools time has been clawed from RE for Welsh Bacc, but assured members that it doesn't have to be delivered in that way. Vicky urged WASACRE and individual SACREs to keep a watching brief on the situation. It was proposed that WASACRE seek a response from WJEC regarding RS and the Welsh Baac and it was decided that Libby Jones would write to Tudor Thomas before his retirement begins to encourage a response from WJEC before the next Executive meeting in the autumn. Individual SACREs were encouraged to ask their own schools what is happening and report back to WASACRE, and it was proposed that WASACRE writes to SACREs to ask them to officially monitor the situation. Mary Parry from Carmarthenshire SACRE confirmed that they are doing this already. It was suggested that a generic WASACRE survey, sent to each SACRE would be useful. Mary also commented that one school in Carmarthenshire has tried teaching a module for the Welsh Baac in KS4 core RE time, instead of RS GCSE but with little success. The school have now brought back the GCSE RS instead.

Page 4, Item 5. Matters arising- Representation on RE Council for England and Wales. Gavin Craigen confirmed that the situation was discussed at the last executive meeting. A firm letter was sent to Joyce Miller, current Chair of REC, pointing out that the RE Council is for both England and Wales and expressed the Association's continued disappointment and concern regarding the current arrangements for the representation of Wales on the Board. Gavin commented that all agendas items are currently and historically England focussed and that little or no discussion of Welsh education takes place, other than the Board receiving brief updates from Welsh representatives when present. Eldon Philips reminded members that there are three bodies represented at RE Council general meetings and that REMW is regularly in attendance at the general meetings. Gill Vaisey proposed that in order to remain fair WASACRE could request that at least one seat is safeguarded on the Executive Board for a representative from Wales and also at least one seat is safeguarded for a representative from England. It was felt that this might be a good compromise. Gavin Craigen thanked Gill for her suggestion and confirmed that Joyce Miller, has offered to meet and talk with WASACRE in order to find a solution. WASACRE will follow this up.



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P15. Item 7. Engaging Boys in RE. Member referred to the comments of Leslie Francis regarding further research needed in the area of boys/males and religion. The member pointed out that the Care market has become a large Market and that research could be carried out to look at how religion has had an impact on this. Religious education in schools should/could provide a strong moral basis of dignity for girls and boys moving into the area of care. Gavin Craigen commented that RE is relevant for different kinds of employment and we could look at this more closely and ensure that RE has its place. Members agreed that RE has more important a place than it has ever had today.

Page 15, Item 7. Engaging Boys in RE. Mary Parry pointed out that although the minutes state that her presentation cannot be included on the WASACRE website for copyright reasons, that she is happy for SACREs to use it and can provide copies to those who are interested on request.

*Diweddariadau/Up-dates:*

*Adolygiad cwricwlwm / Curriculum review.* Mary Parry confirmed that WASACRE sent a response on behalf of the SACREs to the Donaldson report. The Minister has said he accepts the principles, but as yet we do not know the detail. Phil Lord raised the issue that the implementation of the new, proposed curriculum won't be until 2020 and SACREs have already delayed the review of the agreed syllabus. He asked what advice can the Association give to SACREs. Gill Vaisey offered her thoughts asking if there is any need to do anything with regard to reviewing as currently they are based on the current curriculum which hasn't yet changed so until it does there is no need to change. Gavin reminded members that we don't have to keep to the 5 year cycle and so, as soon as we know what the changes are we can make the appropriate changes to our agreed syllabi and have the review. Bethan James raised a concern of teachers from Gwynedd and Anglesey on how radical the report is and that teachers in general may not realise how much change there is on the horizon. It would be beneficial to raise this at every meeting in order to keep up with the latest developments and be ready for that change. Member from Conwy added that it is going to be difficult for teachers, they will have to think differently, and basically start from scratch. Members agreed that WASACRE needs to get involved in that discussion so that we can support teachers. Gavin commented that we are very grateful to NAPfRE who provide guidance and support on this important matter.

6. *Cyflwyniad NAPfRE / NAPfRE presentation:*



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*Hyfforddiant Addoli ar y Cyd CYSAG Wrecsam / Wrexham SACRE Collective Worship training – Libby Jones*

Members thanked Libby for sharing the training powerpoint about collective worship and how to deliver it effectively, created and used by Wrexham SACRE. Questions were taken from the floor from which the following ideas were discussed:

Collective worship as an important part of a child's development as individuals and as a global citizens; the benefit of having pupil awards for having and displaying good values as opposed to academic and sporting achievements; various avenues for dissemination including training Heads and senior leaders instead of teachers, Heads' Federation meetings and WASH, using media more effectively, WASACRE National Conference.

*Prosiect Gweithio mewn Partneriaeth / Partnership working project – Phil Lord*

Phil was thanked for his presentation in which he shared case studies of good practice partnership working between schools and churches. One example was based on the Easter story where More Able and Talented pupils from six primaries and one secondary school used iPads and other technology to investigate the Easter story with Christian faith representatives in Llandudno. Phil also shared materials and information about a Sixth form conference on 'spiritual engagement' using Lat Blaylock's resource.

Questions were taken from the floor including, how do teachers cope with extending the engagement of pupils back in school to ensure that the questions evoked from the activity are answered and not ignored. Phil suggested that appropriate activities during form time could be introduced following the conference to encourage further discussion and extend learning and spiritual development in students

Bethan James commented that often statutory RE is seen as 'another' box to tick' and that these case studies show how valuable RE is and each of the case studies should go to schools. She added that it is necessary for us to give schools the freedom to teach RE in this way.

7. *Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 11 May 2015 / Report from the Executive Committee held on 11 May 2015*

Gavin Craien highlighted some of the main points within the report, for example, the online questionnaire is still being pursued. The submission of WASACRE's response to



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the Donaldson report has been sent. There will be a meeting with Gavin Craigen and Libby Jones from WASACRE and our Welsh Government contacts on 24 September. The collective worship item on the agenda will be pursued, with case studies for collective worship being developed and shared on the WASACRE website along with the WASACRE and Estyn guidance documents. Wrexham SACRE's training presentation has already been shared at the meeting and can be shared more widely as previously discussed in the minutes and will be put on the WASACRE website.

8. *Signposts: cynllun gan Gyngor Ewrop / a Council of Europe initiative – Phil Lord*

Phil presented on the Signposts document which has been recently published by EFTRE, and which will be available to all schools in Europe via the EFTRE Website. The document outlines and describes what religious education should be and suggests a commonality across Europe. Rheinallt Thomas proposed that the document should be taken to the Welsh Government contact meeting in September. Conwy SACRE member enquired about the common ground between the different countries and cultures represented on EFTRE, to which Phil responded that the passion of the teachers across Europe is the same as in Wales. Phil commented further that Wales are leading in terms of what we already do in the document. Other countries start at varying levels below Wales and that whilst there are some countries who teach RE in a similar way to Wales there are many countries that teach RE differently and use a more confessional approach. Gavin thanked Phil once again for his presentation and interesting report.

9. *Gohebiaeth /Correspondence*

Libby Jones read the response received from Ann Keane, Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales to the letter WASACRE sent thanking her for her support and wishing her well in her future. In her letter Ann Keane shared the name of the next Chief Inspector, Meilyr Rowlands.

The recent REC correspondence was covered under previous agenda items.

Libby Jones reported that three requests for information regarding withdrawal from RE had been received from different schools across Wales and that advice had been sent to each accordingly. Gill Vaisey confirmed that she will be working on the guidance for schools on withdrawal procedures in the summer.

Libby Jones shared information received from Welsh Government's Nia Mair Jones regarding the First World War commemorations and a grant that is available to all





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departments in school not just the history department. Libby Jones will ask for this information to be made available on the WASACRE website.

10. U.F.A. / A.O.B.

Rheinallt Thomas spoke on behalf of REMWales and explained that as a result of the situation in Wales with many LA's not subscribing to REMW anymore the organization has been forced to make changes. He assured members that REMW is 'still alive' and still has relationships with REC and RENews etc. Rheinallt was also able to confirm that the movement still produces RE Ideas and have produced a flyer which has gone out to all LA's and churches etc to advertise its services and to request help with RE ideas from teachers. Sam Jesson from Wrexham will be assisting the movement with RE Ideas next year. REMW celebrates 50 years of service to RE and a book on REMW's history will be published soon and available for SACREs on PDF files. Rheinallt thanked WASACRE for its continued support.

11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / *Date for next meeting: 25 Tachwedd 2015, Blaenau Gwent /  
25 November 2015*

*Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / Future meeting dates: Gwanwyn / Spring 2016 Sir  
Benfro / Pembrokeshire; Haf / Summer 2016 Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire; Hydref / Autumn  
2016 Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire; Gwanwyn / Spring 2017 Sir Fynwy /  
Monmouthshire.*